Internship in Sustainable Community Development  
SUS 495 001

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Department: Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, Sustainable Community Development  
Class meeting time and place: Varies by internship host.

Course Description:

3 semester hours. Supervised on-the-job experience. Internships arranged by student in consultation with, and approved by, instructor. Prerequisite: advanced standing.

Suggested Texts and Materials:

Course Requirements:

Students are required to perform a minimum of 150 hours of service, to keep a daily journal of their internship experience, and to write a final paper that demonstrates their ability to apply their knowledge to real-world problems.

Grading:

This course is pass-fail. You must meet ALL deadlines to receive a passing grade.

Program Learning Outcomes:

The BA in Sustainable Community Development has the following program learning goals:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of sustainability.
2. Students will be able to identify the most significant philosophical, emotional, and intellectual obstacles to generating sustainable communities.
3. Students will be able to identify the most significant economic, political, and cultural factors in generating sustainable communities.
4. Students will be able to articulate the reasons that sustaining viable communities holds value to human societies.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to construct research models and analyze data.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply their theoretical knowledge to the solution of real-world problems.
Student Learning Outcomes:

The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply their theoretical knowledge to the solution of real-world problems.

Attendance Policy: Since this is an internship, we meet before the semester begins and during the semester as needed. It is the responsibility of the intern to meet her/his hourly obligations to the agency based on a three or six hour internship. The hourly requirements are detailed above. In the event of illness or other unforeseen circumstances that may interfere with the intern’s ability to meet these obligations, the internship coordinator should be contacted immediately.

Withheld Grades Policy

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor and with the approval of the department chair, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work due to unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Note that a grade of WH is given at the discretion of the course instructor and department chair. Both must agree that a WH is appropriate. Furthermore, only students who have completed almost all of the course work will be considered for a grade of WH.

Student Intern Requirements:

1. Meet academic prerequisite
2. Cooperate with and support the agency and its personnel
3. Adhere to agency policies
4. Meet professional expectations related to work assignment(s)
5. Develop internship objectives for work assignment(s) and keep journal (daily or weekly) for duration of internship obligation
6. Submit 5-10 page research paper linking sociology studies to internship experience through literature review and description of how experience applies to literature. Also submit 1-2 page written essay summarizing internship experience to internship coordinator by the end of Dead Week
7. Communicate with internship coordinator periodically throughout the semester.
8. Provide your own transportation to and from the agency; travel time is not included as part of internship required hours
9. Ensure promptness for agency assignments and work.
10. Obtain agency approval (and Internship coordinator’s approval, if appropriate) for any alteration of work schedule (e.g., illness, etc.)
11. Remind field supervisor one month prior to the semester-end of the date of expected completion and termination of work.
Internship Timeframe (calendar)

Step 1 (Semester before registration)
- Contact Advisor of the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis to discuss intention to do an internship
- Upon approval, the Chair directs the student to contact the departmental Internship Coordinator

Step 2 (Two weeks before registration)
- Coordinator provides details of appropriate agencies to the student
- Student selects an agency or agencies to visit and meet the supervisory personnel
- Student submits an Application for Internship (refer to attachments)

Step 3 (Prior to registration)
- Coordinator reviews the student’s application and approves or disapproves
- Coordinator and the Student meet together and select the agency assignment
- Student and the Agency Supervisor (field supervisor) will meet and agree on work plan and internship objectives (work responsibilities, requirements, time schedule, etc.)
- Coordinator must approve work plans and objectives

Step 4 (Registration)
- Student registers for Soc 400, section 1 or 2

Step 5 (Start of semester)
- Student begins work, observes his/her supervisor or other staff member performing assigned tasks, and becomes a team member of the organization

Step 6 (Throughout the semester)
- The field supervisor (or designee) monitors student’s performance
- Student maintains a journal outlining tasks performed and the progress toward accomplishing the internship objectives
- Coordinator maintains contact with the agency supervisor to discuss work progress with the student
- Student meets periodically with the Internship coordinator as needed

Step 7 (End of Dead Week)
- Student submits a written summary of her/his experiences and accomplishments on the Friday of Dead Week (week before final exams) to the Internship Coordinator.
- The coordinator evaluates student’s accomplishment of objectives and awards a final grade of P or F (Pass or Fail)